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# RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE NORTH AMERICAN CRANE WORKING GROUP

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**RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE  
NORTH AMERICAN CRANE WORKING GROUP**

**NINTH NORTH AMERICAN CRANE WORKSHOP  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA**

**24 JANUARY, 2003**

**FRESHWATER INFLOWS FOR CONSERVATION OF BLUE CRABS AND WHOOPING CRANES**

Research has shown that whooping cranes require abundant blue crab populations on which to forage to meet their energy needs. The NACWG urges the Texas Council of Environmental Quality to grant a water right to the San Marcos River Foundation at the maximum level requested (1.15 million acre-feet) to provide freshwater inflows for conservation purposes as identified in a study conducted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. These inflows would increase blue crab populations, keep the bays and marshes productive in whooping crane critical habitat at Aransas, and help with whooping crane conservation and survival.

**WHOOPING CRANE DESIGNATED CRITICAL HABITAT ON THE PLATTE RIVER IN  
NEBRASKA**

The U.S. Department of Interior has recently requested that the National Academy of Sciences review the status of designated critical habitat for the whooping crane along a 53-mile reach of the Platte River in central Nebraska. Based on numerous historical and current records of use on the Platte by whooping cranes, and the continuing need for suitable stop-over migration sites for the species throughout their 2500-mile route between Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and Wood Buffalo National Park, the NACWG recognizes the importance of central Platte River habitat to the conservation of the whooping crane and strongly recommends the continuation of designated critical habitat for whooping cranes on the Platte.

**CONSTRUCTION OF WHOOPING CRANE BREEDING FACILITIES AT ACRES**

Whereas the Whooping Crane Recovery Team in January 2003 made a commitment to provide the Audubon Center for Research on Endangered Species (ACRES) in New Orleans with ten (10) breeding pairs of whooping cranes, contingent on the construction of a separate, additional whooping crane facility, and

Whereas, ACRES currently has whooping cranes housed in 4 breeding pens originally designated for Mississippi Sandhill Cranes and will need to build an additional, separate whooping crane facility as well as a chick-rearing facility to support 10 breeding pairs.

Whereas, the whooping cranes produced in this breeding facility will provide birds for present and potential future whooping crane reintroduction experiments,

Let it be resolved, that the NACWG requests the Audubon Nature Institute, the State of Louisiana, and poten-

tial additional donors fully fund and expedite construction of an expanded whooping crane breeding facility and provide funding for additional support staff at the Audubon Center for Research on Endangered Species (ACRES).

### **SUPPORT FOR THE CRANE CONSERVATION ACT – SENATE BILL S.943**

Cranes around the world face serious threats with 11 of the 15 species listed as endangered or threatened. The Crane Conservation Act (Senate Bill # 943, of 2005) introduced in the United States Senate, would provide much-needed funding and promote the global conservation of cranes.

The NACWG fully supports the proposed Crane Conservation Act and urges passage into law.

### **HOST RESOLUTION**

Participants of the Ninth North American Crane Workshop hereby express their thanks to Tom Hoffman and the West Coast Crane Working Group for hosting this workshop in Sacramento, California. The sessions, field trips, and other activities were excellent and revitalizing for participants of the workshop.